

# DAPKUS FIREWORKS INC.

63 COMMERCE CIRCLE  
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February 18, 2022

Connecticut General Assembly  
Public Safety and Security Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 3600  
Hartford, CT 06106

SUPPORT FOR : SB132 AN ACT CONCERNING THE SALE AND USE OF CONSUMER GRADE FIREWORKS

Senators and Representatives of the Public Safety Committee,

My name is Michael Dapkus and I am a co -owner of Dapkus Fireworks of Durham, Connecticut and Stateline Fireworks of Winchester, New Hampshire. I am also a retired Police Sergeant and paramedic. I have over 40 years of experience in the fireworks manufacturing and distribution industry. Pertaining to SB132 which would expand the use of Consumer fireworks in Connecticut, let me make a few important points about this bill.

1) Presently thousands of Connecticut residents flock to either New Hampshire or Pennsylvania to purchase the fireworks proposed in SB132, because they are not sold or can be used in Connecticut. Many more tons/truckloads of Consumer fireworks, not allowed in Connecticut, are also shipped into Connecticut around July 4th and sold illegally .

2) Although I understand and respect the Police and Fire officials concerns, it is my opinion the present Connecticut fireworks law banning certain consumer fireworks in Connecticut is un-enforceable around July 4th. There are hundreds, if not thousands of Connecticut residents using illegal consumer fireworks they purchased from out of state , thus every fire and police official cannot answer every illegal fireworks call around the 4th of July.

3) Public safety officials have to deal with numerous calls for illegal fireworks within a 10 day span leading to July 4th, then the calls for fireworks substantially drop after 4th of July. Some injuries and fires may occur, **mainly caused by misuse and intoxication**. These accidents are very similar to other commodities like cigarette smoking, power tools, propane grills, ATVs or simple household candles that can result in injury or fire if misused.

## Aspects of SB132

1) SB132 would expand the sale of consumer fireworks approved by the US Consumer Product Safety Commission that include, novelty devices, ground spinners , roman candles, and multi shot aerial devices. These items are tested and manufactured only for consumer use, under strict regulations and standards by the USCSPC and numerous standards laboratories.

2) SB132 would establish legal consumer fireworks brick & mortar retail stores, that would sell and store consumer fireworks in a safe and regulated manner. These stores and employees will promote the safe use of consumer fireworks. The establishment of these retail stores will put illegal bootleggers out of business. The use of display fireworks illegally will also decrease, because of the availability of the expanded Consumer fireworks market.

3) SB132 as written today is ambiguous in some parts , but throughout the legislative process, both public safety and fireworks industry members can hopefully work together and amend the bill to be more defined, for the proper sale and use of Consumer Fireworks throughout Connecticut.

Thank You

Sincerely,

Michael Dapkus  
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